

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) A non-immersive virtual image display for combining image light and ambient light comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a backlit image source and a reflective focusing optic supported by the housing and aligned along a common optical axis;
 - a viewing aperture and an ambient-light-admitting aperture formed in the housing and aligned along a viewing axis that is inclined to the common optical axis;
 - a beamsplitter supported by the housing at an intersection of the common optical axis and the viewing axis;
 - the beamsplitter being positioned for:

(a) transmitting image light between the backlit image source and the reflective focusing optic along the common optical axis,

(b) reflecting the transmitted image light between the reflective focusing optic and the viewing aperture along the viewing axis, and

(c) transmitting ambient light between the ambient-light-admitting aperture and the viewing aperture along the viewing axis superimposed upon the transmitted image light that is reflected along the viewing axis; and

an ambient-light-admitting adjuster that regulates the amount of ambient light transmitted between the ambient-light-admitting aperture and the viewing aperture along the viewing axis.

The display of claim 6 in which wherein both the beamsplitter and the ambient-light-admitting aperture are polarization sensitive, and the ambient-light-admitting adjuster varies polarization sensitivities between the beamsplitter and the ambient-light-admitting aperture.

8. (Currently Amended) A non-immersive virtual image display for combining image light and ambient light comprising:

a housing;

a backlit image source and a reflective focusing optic supported by the housing and aligned along a common optical axis;

a viewing aperture and an ambient-light-admitting aperture formed in the housing and aligned along a viewing axis that is inclined to the common optical axis;

a beamsplitter supported by the housing at an intersection of the common optical axis and the viewing axis;

the beamsplitter being positioned for:

(a) transmitting image light between the backlit image source and the reflective focusing optic along the common optical axis,

(b) reflecting the transmitted image light between the reflective focusing optic and the viewing aperture along the viewing axis, and

(c) transmitting ambient light between the ambient-light-admitting aperture and the viewing aperture along the viewing axis superimposed upon the transmitted image light that is reflected along the viewing axis; and

an ambient-light-admitting adjuster that regulates the amount of ambient light transmitted between the ambient-light-admitting aperture and the viewing aperture along the viewing axis.

~~The display of claim 6 in which both~~ wherein the beamsplitter and the ambient-light-admitting aperture are associated with polarizers, and the ambient-light-admitting adjuster varies a relative angular orientation of the ambient-light-admitting aperture polarizer with respect to the beamsplitter polarizer.

9. (Currently Amended) A non-immersive virtual image display for combining image light and ambient light comprising:

a housing;

a backlit image source and a reflective focusing optic supported by the housing and aligned along a common optical axis;

a viewing aperture and an ambient-light-admitting aperture formed in the housing and aligned along a viewing axis that is inclined to the common optical axis;

a beamsplitter supported by the housing at an intersection of the common optical axis and the viewing axis;

the beamsplitter being positioned for:

(a) transmitting image light between the backlit image source and the reflective focusing optic along the common optical axis,

(b) reflecting the transmitted image light between the reflective focusing optic and the viewing aperture along the viewing axis, and

(c) transmitting ambient light between the ambient-light-admitting aperture and the viewing aperture along the viewing axis superimposed upon the transmitted image light that is reflected along the viewing axis.

~~The display of claim 1 in which~~ wherein the beamsplitter is polarization sensitive and further comprising a phase adjuster for rotating polarization of the image light transmitted through the polarization-sensitive beamsplitter en route to and from the reflective focusing optic.

10. (Currently Amended) The display of ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 further comprising an optically active component located between the ambient-light-admitting aperture and the beamsplitter for altering the ambient light that is combined with the transmitted image light along the viewing axis.

11. (Original) The display of claim 10 in which the optically active component is an optical filter.

12. (Original) The display of claim 10 in which the optically active component is a lens.

13. (Original) The display of claim 10 in which the optically active component is a polarizer.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A non-immersive virtual display for combining image light and ambient light comprising:

a housing having an ambient-light-admitting aperture and a viewing aperture;

a backlit image source;

a reflector;

the housing enclosing optical transmissions of (a) image light from the image source to the reflector along a first optical pathway and (b) ambient light from the ambient-light-admitting aperture to the viewing aperture along a second optical pathway;

a beamsplitter located at an intersection of the first and second optical pathways supporting the transmissions of (a) image light from the backlit image source to the reflector along the first optical pathway and (b) ambient light from

the ambient-light-admitting aperture to the viewing aperture along a second optical pathway;

the beamsplitter also supporting reflection of the transmitted image light from the reflector to the viewing aperture for combining the transmitted image light with the transmitted ambient light along the second optical pathway;
and

an ambient-light-admitting adjuster that regulates the amount of ambient light transmitted from the ambient-light-admitting aperture to the viewing aperture along the second optical pathway.

~~The display of claim 15 in which~~ wherein the beamsplitter is polarization sensitive and further comprising a polarization-sensitive component along the second optical pathway between the beamsplitter and the ambient-light-admitting aperture, and the ambient-light-admitting adjuster relatively varies the polarization sensitivities of the polarization sensitive component with respect to the beamsplitter.

17. (Original) The display of claim 16 in which the polarization-sensitive component is a polarizer and the ambient-light-admitting adjuster provides for rotating the polarizer.

18. (Currently Amended) A non-immersive virtual display for combining image light and ambient light comprising:

a housing having an ambient-light-admitting aperture and a viewing aperture;

a backlit image source;

a reflector;

the housing enclosing optical transmissions of (a) image light from the image source to the reflector along a first optical pathway and (b) ambient light from the ambient-light-admitting aperture to the viewing aperture along a second optical pathway;

a beamsplitter located at an intersection of the first and second optical pathways supporting the transmissions of (a) image light from the backlit image source to the reflector along the first optical pathway and (b) ambient light from the ambient-light-admitting aperture to the viewing aperture along a second optical pathway; and

the beamsplitter also supporting reflection of the transmitted image light from the reflector to the viewing aperture for combining the transmitted image light with the transmitted ambient light along the second optical pathway.

~~The display of claim 14 in which~~ wherein the beamsplitter is polarization sensitive and further comprising a phase adjuster for rotating polarization of the transmitted image light en route to and from the reflector.

19. (Currently Amended) The display of ~~claim 14~~ claim 18 further comprising an optically active component located between the ambient-light-admitting aperture and the beamsplitter for altering the ambient light that is combined with the transmitted image light along the viewing axis.

20. (Original) The display of claim 19 in which the optically active component is an optical filter.

21. (Original) The display of claim 19 in which the optically active component is a lens.

22. (Original) The display of claim 19 in which the optically active component is a polarizer.

23. – 84. (Cancelled)